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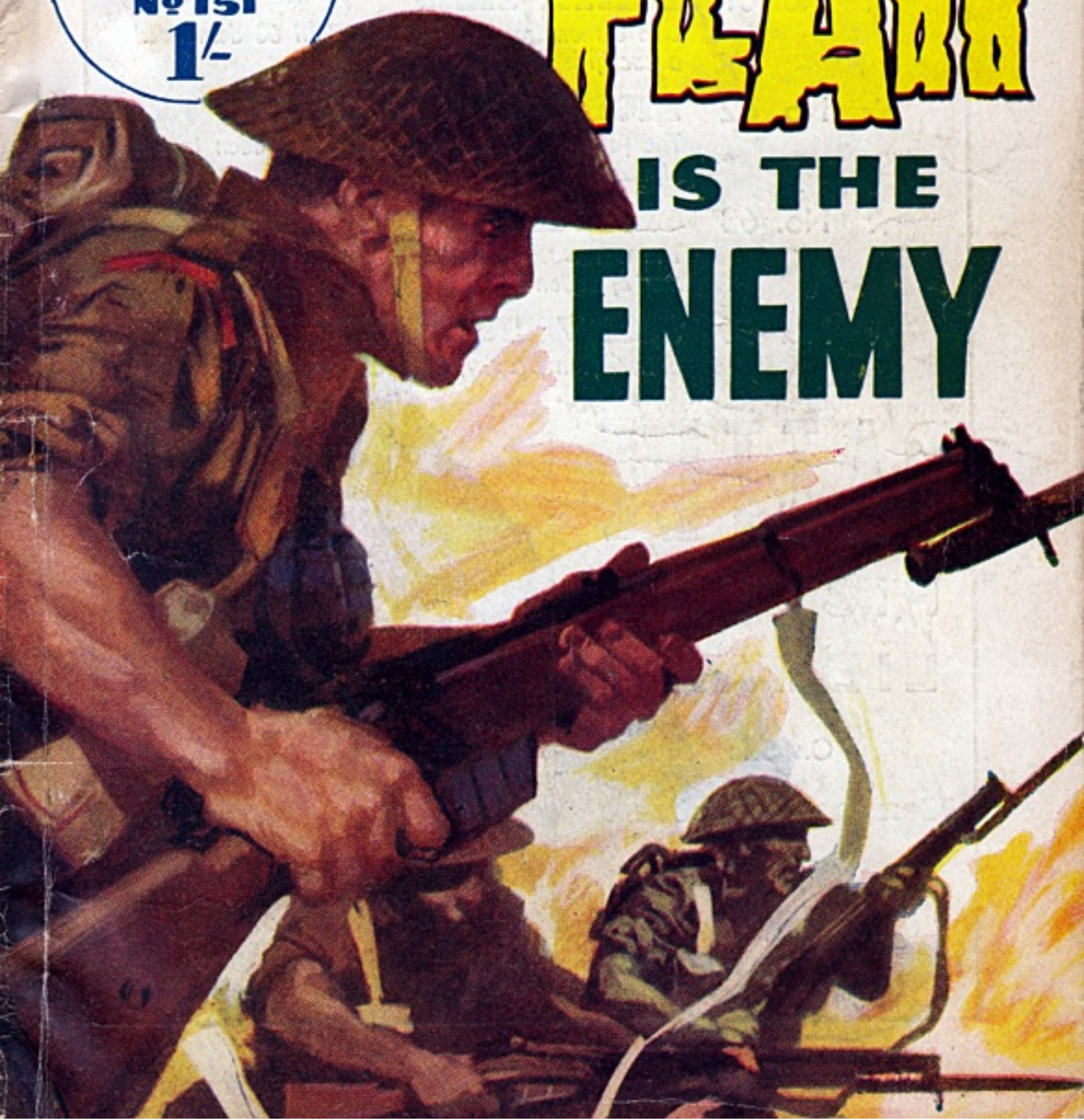
**WAR**  
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NO 151

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# FEAR

IS THE  
ENEMY





# 4

## **ALL-ACTION ISSUES EVERY MONTH**

★ No. 61 **DEATH TRAP**

*Like a monstrous god of war, Hill 60 demanded a sacrifice !*

★ No. 62 **NIGHT OF THE DEVIL**

*The fate of the lonely patrol was hidden in the nightmare jungle !*

★ No. 63 **CHALLENGE**

*The war was too far away for these red-blooded men of action !*

★ No. 64 **THE VICIOUS CIRCLE**

*Clawed from the sky, they would not admit defeat !*

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# FEAR *IS THE ENEMY*

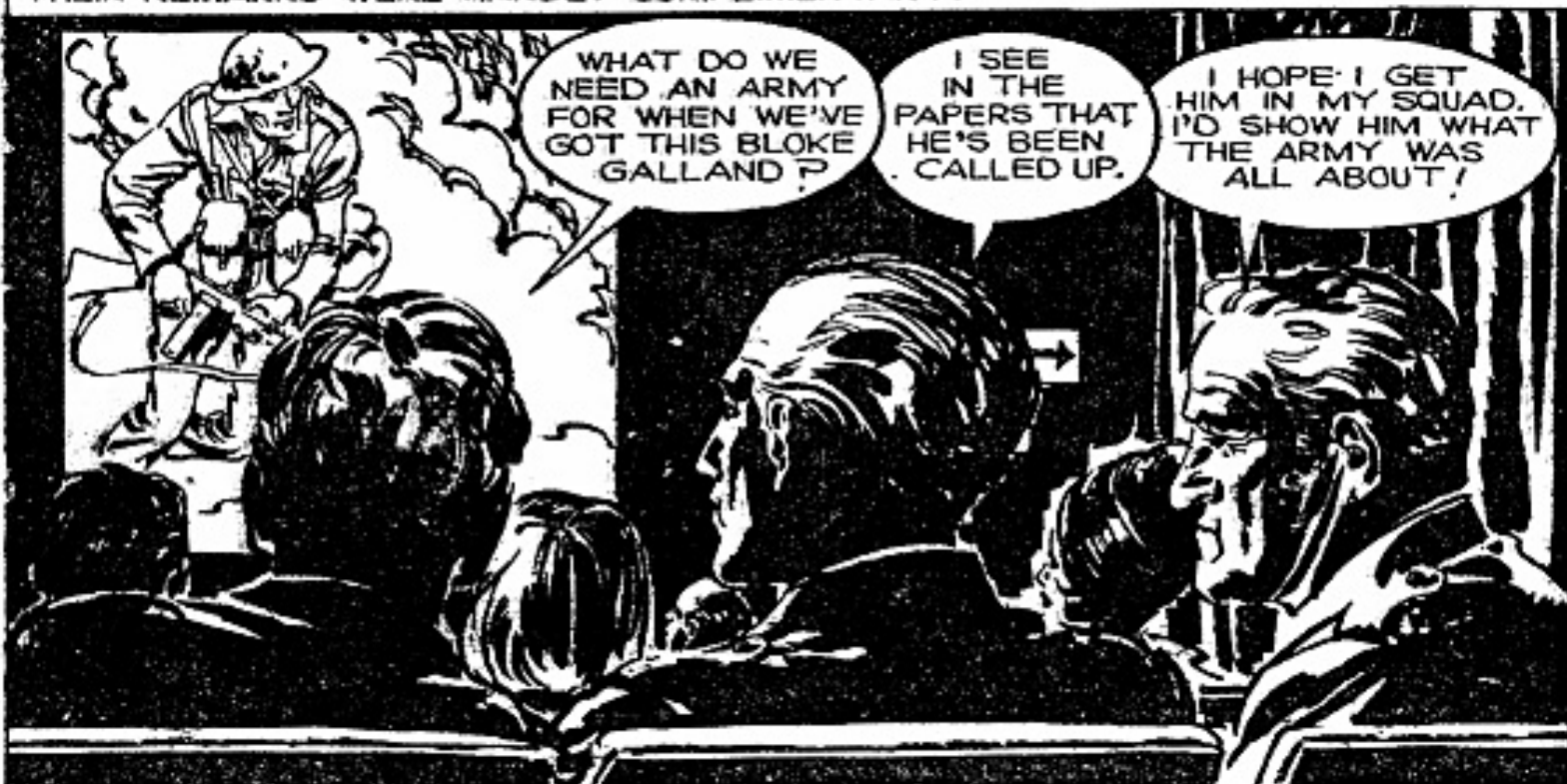
FOR RAY GALLAND, FILM STAR, WAR WAS A SIMPLE AFFAIR OF A FILM SET, CAMERA CREWS AND THE GENERAL HUSTLE OF THE FILM STUDIO. HE WAS THE PUBLIC'S IDEAL WAR HERO, DASHING, COURAGEOUS AND COMPLETELY FEARLESS ...



BUT FOR ALL HIS BRAVERY ON THE CINEMA SCREEN, RAY GALLAND WAS AN ORDINARY MAN AT HEART, SHARING THE SAME FEARS AND FEELINGS AS OTHER MEN. HIS PROBLEM WAS THAT PEOPLE EXPECTED HIM TO ACT IN REAL LIFE AS THE SAME HERO THEY HAD SEEN ON THE CINEMA SCREEN.

# Chapter 1. Celluloid Hero

AMONG THE CROWD OF CINEMA-GOERS WATCHING RAY GALLAND'S LATEST EPIC, SAT THREE VETERAN ARMY SERGEANTS. TOUGHENED BY REAL DISCIPLINE, THEIR REMARKS WERE HARDLY COMPLIMENTARY.



TWO WEEKS LATER SERGEANT GRAIL WAS TO GET HIS WISH. IN A FLURRY OF PUBLICITY MEN AND PHOTOGRAPHERS, RAY GALLAND ARRIVED TO BEGIN HIS MILITARY CAREER.

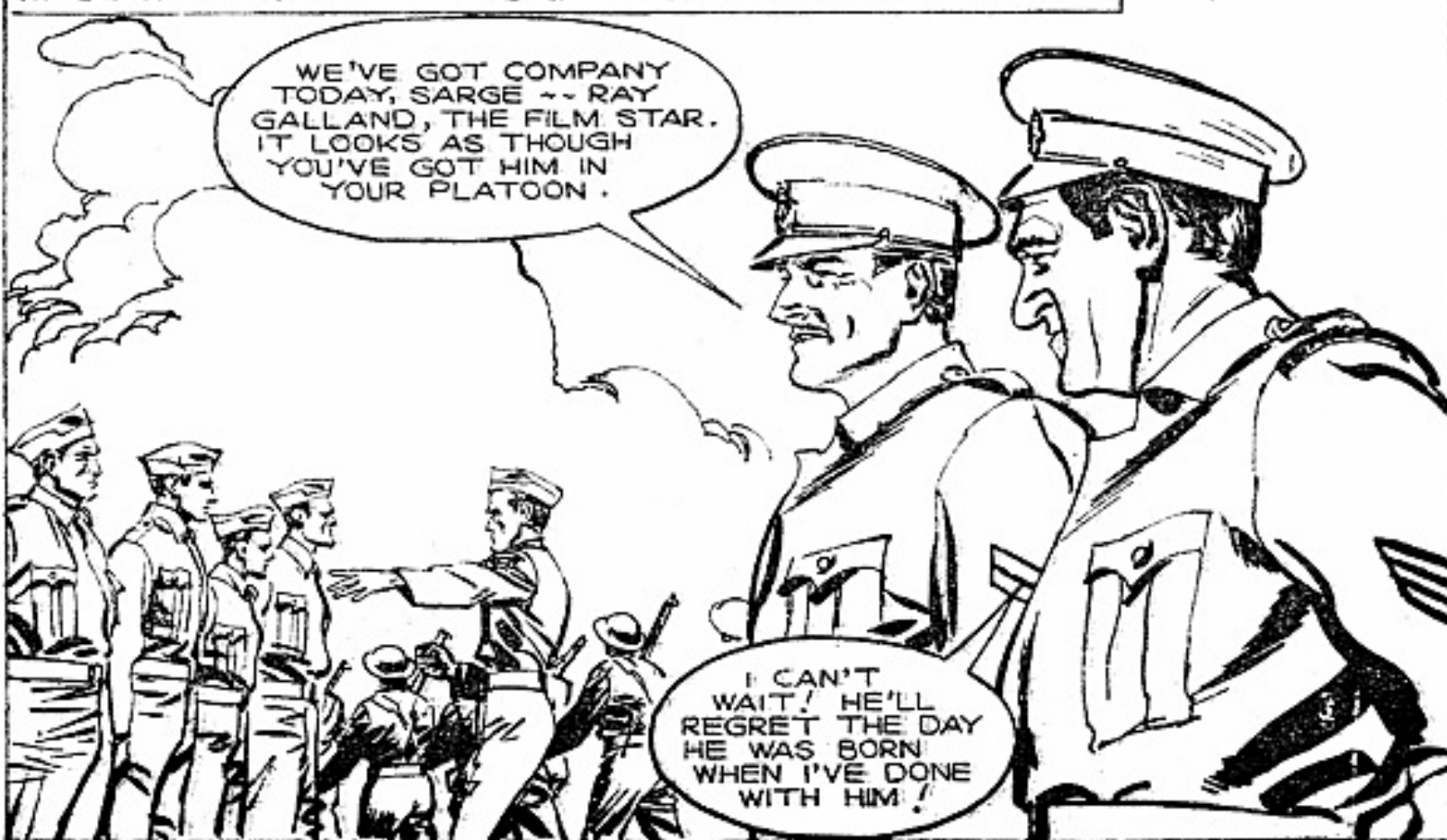




SERGEANT GRAIL COULD HARDLY BELIEVE HIS EYES. NEVER IN HIS YEARS AS AN ARMY SERGEANT HAD HE SEEN A RECRUIT ARRIVE IN SUCH A MANNER...



THE NEXT DAY, ON THE PARADE GROUND, SERGEANT GRAIL MADE HIS FIRST PERSONAL CONTACT WITH RAY GALLAND.



RIGHT FROM THE START, SERGEANT. GRAIL MADE NO ATTEMPT TO CONCEAL THE CONTEMPT HE FELT FOR GALLAND.

THE ONE AND ONLY MISTER GALLAND, EH? WE'LL SOON SEE HOW YOU SHAPE AS A *REAL* SOLDIER!



BUT, IN THE WEEKS THAT FOLLOWED, PRIVATE GALLAND PROVED A GOOD RECRUIT, MUCH TO THE SERGEANT'S DISGUST.

LEFT, RIGHT, LEFT, RIGHT... PICK YOUR GREAT FEET UP, GALLAND!





IN THE EVENINGS AT THE SERGEANT'S MESS, GRAIL CAME 'IN FOR SOME CHEERFUL LEG-PULLING ...

LOOKS AS THOUGH YOUR FILM STAR'S GOING TO MAKE A SOLDIER AFTER ALL.

I HEAR THAT HE'S ONE OF YOUR TOP RECRUITS, DAVE.



GRADUALLY THE CONVERSATION DRIFTED TO MORE SERIOUS TOPICS, RUMOURS OF A POSTING TO ONE OF THE FRONTS HAD BEEN GOING THE ROUNDS, BUT NO-ONE WAS CERTAIN WHERE THE UNIT WOULD BE SENT.

WHAT'S THE LATEST BUZZ, LADS?

I'VE HEARD THEY'RE SENDING US TO GREECE. THE BOYS ARE TAKING A HECK OF A BEATING THERE.



SERGEANT GRAIL'S GUESS WAS RIGHT. A MONTH LATER THEY ARRIVED IN GREECE WHERE HITLER'S 12TH ARMY WAS SLOWLY PUSHING THE ALLIES BACK TO THE SEA.

IS THIS WHERE WE'RE GOING TO MAKE OUR STAND, SERGEANT?

YOU'RE OFF YOUR NUT, GALLAND! THERE'S A COLUMN OF JERRY TANKS BEHIND US. WHAT D'YOU RECKON WE'RE GOING TO STOP 'EM WITH ... RIFLES?

SEPARATED FROM THE REST OF THEIR COMPANY, SERGEANT GRAIL'S PLATOON WERE MAKING THEIR WAY DOWN THE LONG ROAD TO THE COAST. SUDDENLY, AS THEY ROUNDED A BEND, A FORCE OF GERMAN INFANTRY RACED ON TO THE ROAD AHEAD. RAY GALLAND SPRANG INTO ACTION!

RUN FOR IT, LADS! GALLAND, YOU FOOL -- ARE YOU TRYING TO GET US ALL KILLED?

IF I CAN HOLD THE JERRIES UP, THE LADS WILL HAVE TIME TO GET AWAY!



GALLAND HAD NO TIME TO PUT HIS PLAN INTO ACTION. SERGEANT GRAIL GRABBED HIM VIOLENTLY...



ONE OF THE PLATOON HALTED THE CHARGING ENEMY WITH A GRENADE, COVERING GRAIL AND THE DAZED GALLAND AS THEY DASHED TO COVER.



AT LAST THE FLEEING PLATOON SHOOK OFF THE PURSUING GERMANS. AS DARKNESS FELL, GRAIL COULD SEE THE GLARE OF THE COAST AHEAD OF THEM.

WATCH OUT FOR INFILTRATING PATROLS, MEN!

I THOUGHT I SAW SOMETHING MOVING OVER THERE, SERGEANT.



BEFORE GRAIL COULD STOP HIM, GALLAND WAS OFF AGAIN.

GALLAND, COME BACK HERE!



EVEN AS THE SERGEANT SHOUTED, THE AIR WAS RENT BY FLASHING EXPLOSIONS.

IT'S A JERRY PATROL -- AND THEY'VE GOT A MORTAR! SCATTER FOR COVER!





AS THE MORTAR BOMBS EXPLODED BEHIND HIM, GALLAND WAS JOINED BY CORPORAL MELLOR.



THEY'RE HITTING US FROM THE SHELTER OF THAT RISE, CORPORAL.

HIT THE DIRT, GALLAND. -- IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE STIRRED UP A HORNET'S NEST!

CORPORAL MELLOR, A HARD-BITTEN REGULAR SOLDIER, SHOVED GALLAND INTO A DITCH.



WHAT ABOUT SERGEANT GRAIL AND THE PLATOON? THEY'LL BE TRAPPED.

GRAIL WILL TAKE CARE OF THE OTHERS. THE JERRIES WILL PROBABLY COME OUT INTO THE OPEN WHEN THEY RECKON THEY'VE CLOBBERED THE PLATOON. THEN WE'LL GET OUR CHANCE!

SUDDENLY, THE OVER-CONFIDENT GERMANS BURST FROM COVER, CERTAIN THAT THEIR MORTAR FIRE HAD WIPED OUT THE OPPOSITION.



COOLLY, THE WILY CORPORAL LET THE GERMANS GET TO WITHIN POINT-BLANK RANGE. THEN ~~~





MELLOR BROUGHT DOWN THE GERMAN OFFICER WITH HIS FIRST SHOT. THE NAZIS BROKE IN CONFUSION STRAIGHT INTO THE FIRE OF SERGEANT GRAIL'S MEN.



MELLOR AND GALLAND REJOINED THE PLATOON. THE IMMEDIATE DANGER WAS OVER. BUT SERGEANT GRAIL HAD NOT FORGOTTEN GALLAND'S RASH MOVE THAT HAD STARTED THE BATTLE ...

WHAT KIND OF A FOOL ARE YOU, GALLAND? THAT'S THE SECOND TIME YOU'VE NEARLY HAD US ALL KILLED!



FUMING, GRAIL TURNED AWAY. TIME WAS PRECIOUS AND THE PLATOON CONTINUED ON ITS MARCH TO THE COAST.

I THINK YOU WERE A BIT HARD ON THE LAD, SARGE! HE FLUSHED THAT MORTAR CREW OUT ...

THEY WOULDN'T HAVE SPOTTED US IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR GALLAND. HE SHOULD HAVE STAYED MAKING WAR PICTURES ... THAT'S WHERE HE BELONGS!

SIGHTING A SMALL VILLAGE, THEY HALTED AND GRAIL TOOK A PATROL TO SCOUT THE PLACE. MELLOR TOOK THE CHANCE TO TALK TO GALLAND ...

LOOKS AS IF THE SARGE'S GOT IT IN FOR YOU, MATE. BETTER STOP STICKING YOUR NECK OUT.

THANKS FOR THE TIP, CORP... BUT IT ISN'T AS EASY AS YOU THINK.



A FROWN LINING HIS FOREHEAD, GALLAND WENT ON...



I'M MORE SCARED THAN YOU THINK, CORPORAL. BUT THERE'S SOMETHING I FEAR MORE THAN THE JERRIES... A FEAR THAT I SHALL HEAR MEN LAUGHING AT RAY GALLAND -- FILM STAR HERO!

I'M KNOWN TO MILLIONS OF PEOPLE AS A **HERO**. AND NOW I'M FIGHTING A **REAL** WAR THEY EXPECT ME TO DO THE THINGS I DID ON THE SCREEN. THEY DON'T REALISE THAT I'M JUST AN **ORDINARY** BLOKE.



AT THAT MOMENT, SERGEANT GRAIL CAME BACK. BUT PRIVATE GALLAND, LOST IN THOUGHT, DID NOT SEE HIM.

OKAY! THE VILLAGE IS CLEAR. JUMP TO IT, GALLAND! THIS IS NO TIME FOR DREAMING.



ONLY CORPORAL MELLOR KNEW THE TRUE REASON FOR PRIVATE GALLAND'S HEADSTRONG ACTS OF BRAVERY -- AND HE RESOLVED TO HELP THE BATTLE-RAW SOLDIER. AS THEY PASSED THROUGH THE VILLAGE IT WAS MELLOR WHO HAD AN INSTINCTIVE FEELING OF DANGER.

THIS VILLAGE IS JUST THE PLACE JERRY WOULD PLANT A SPY TO CHECK ON TROOP MOVEMENTS.

NO NEED TO KEEP YOUR FINGER ON THE TRIGGER, CORPORAL. THERE ARE NO GERMANS HERE.



BUT MELLOR'S FEAR WAS JUSTIFIED. AS THE WEARY PLATOON LEFT THE VILLAGE, AN ENEMY AGENT WAS BUSY TRANSMITTING THE INFORMATION.

ACHTUNG ...  
ACHTUNG ... REPORT  
BRITISH TROOPS IN  
SECTOR REDWOLF ...  
HEADING FOR COAST ...  
MAY BE MORE IN  
VICINITY ...

YOUR  
MESSAGE  
RECEIVED AND  
UNDERSTOOD,  
REDWOLF ...  
WEHRMACHT  
UNIT WILL  
INTERCEPT  
ENEMY ...





AT THE NEXT VILLAGE, ANOTHER BRITISH UNIT WAS RESTING, WHEN THE ALERTED WEHRMACHT PATROL STRUCK.

JERRIES!  
GET TO THE  
TRANSPORT,  
MEN!



SERGEANT GRAIL AND HIS PLATOON ARRIVED ON THE SCENE JUST AS TWO OF THE LORRIES WERE PULLING OUT...



DESPERATELY, THEY RACED TOWARDS THE LORRY, ONLY TO RUN INTO A STORM OF FIRE FROM THE GERMAN TROOPS. QUICK-THINKING, CORPORAL MELLOR TUGGED THE PIN FROM A MILLS BOMB...

IT'S NO GOOD!  
WE'LL NEVER  
MAKE IT...!

...LET'S SEE  
HOW YOU LIKE  
THIS GRENADE,  
JERRY...!

THE GRENADE SAVED THE PLATOON. AS THE SURVIVING GERMANS REGROUPED FOR ANOTHER ATTACK, GRAIL'S UNIT BEGAN TO CLAMBER ABOARD THE LORRY. BUT RAY GALLAND STOOD FOUR-SQUARE--FIRING ROUND AFTER ROUND AT THE NAZIS...

GALLAND, YOU  
FOOL! GET IN  
THE LORRY!

HE'S STILL  
AFTER A MEDAL,  
SARGE! LET'S  
GET OUT OF  
HERE--LEAVE  
HIM BEHIND!



CORPORAL MELLOR PUSHED THE BEWILDERED GALLAND INTO THE LORRY AND FLUNG THE GRENADE AT THE ADVANCING GERMS.



SOON THEY HAD REACHED OPEN COUNTRY. A FEW HOURS LATER, WHEN THEY STOPPED TO REFUEL, GRAIL SPOKE TO THE CORPORAL.

WHY SO MATEY WITH GALLAND, CORPORAL? HE'S A JONAH, THAT BLOKE!

MAYBE. BUT HE'S GOT COURAGE, AND THAT'S MORE THAN SOME OF US HAVE!



THE TWO MEN FACED EACH OTHER ANGRILY...

ARE YOU SUGGESTING I'M A COWARD, MELLOR?

THINK WHAT YOU LIKE, GRAIL! BUT, FOR PETE'S SAKE, STOP PICKING ON GALLAND ALL THE TIME...



THE HEATED ARGUMENT ENDED WHEN THE LORRY CONTINUED ONWARDS TO THE COAST. SUDDENLY, A GERMAN PLANE APPEARED IN THE SKY AND DIVED TOWARDS THE LOADED TRUCK.

STUKA, SARGE!  
AND HE'S  
SPOTTED US!

GET OFF  
THE ROAD!  
EVERYBODY  
OUT ... TAKE  
COVER!



BUT THE WARNING CRY WAS TOO LATE. BEFORE ALL THE MEN HAD TIME TO TAKE COVER, A BOMB SMASHED INTO THE DEFENCELESS TRUCK...





A SECOND BOMB EXPLODED AMID THE PANIC-STRICKEN MEN. RAY GALLAND, HIS SENSES REELING, RAN BLINDLY TO ESCAPE THE CLUTCHING FINGERS OF DEATH.



ONLY THREE MEN SURVIVED THAT TERRIBLE ATTACK. BATTERED, SHAKEN, TWO OF THEM PICKED THEMSELVES UP. IT WAS GRAIL WHO POINTED TO THE TREMBLING FIGURE OF RAY GALLAND.

THERE'S YOUR *HERO*, MELLOR! I *KNEW* GALLAND HADN'T GOT NERVE WHEN IT CAME TO THE REAL THING!



EVERY MAN HAS HIS WEAK MOMENTS, GRAIL. COME ON, WE'VE GOT TO GET AWAY FROM HERE.

STILL SHAKING WITH FEAR, GALLAND STOOD UP. THEN, WEARILY, THE THREE MEN BEGAN TO PLOD THEIR WAY ALONG THE DUSTY ROAD TO THE COAST.

TELL PRIVATE GALLAND THE PUNISHMENT FOR LOSING HIS RIFLE, CORPORAL.

WE'LL BE LUCKY IF WE DON'T LOSE MORE THAN RIFLES BEFORE WE'RE OUT OF THIS ...

FOR A WHOLE DAY THEY TRAVELLED ON. THEN, WITHIN ONLY A FEW HUNDRED YARDS OF THE BATTLE-SWEPT BEACH OF NAUPLIA, GALLAND'S NERVE CRACKED AGAIN.

I CAN'T GO ANY FARTHER... I CAN'T FACE THOSE PLANES!

STEADY, MAN... GET A GRIP ON YOURSELF!

SERGEANT GRAIL LOOKED AT GALLAND CONTEMPTUOUSLY.

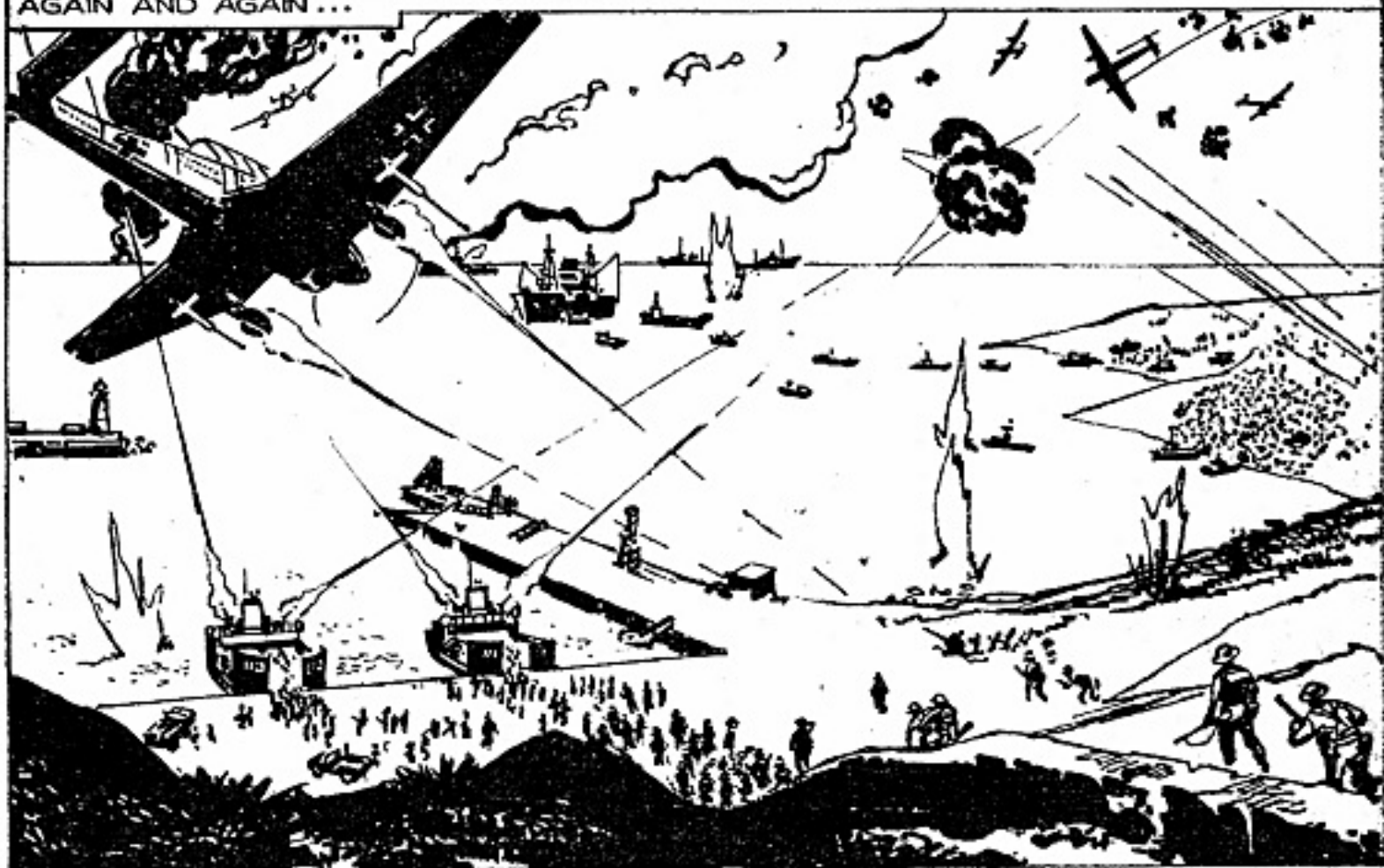
YOU'RE NOT SO COCKY WHEN THERE'S REAL TROUBLE, ARE YOU, GALLAND?

THOSE PLANES... THEY SCARE ME!

STICK WITH ME, GALLAND. WE'LL GET THROUGH!



ON THE BEACH, BATTLE-WEARY BRITISH SOLDIERS SWARMED AROUND THE WAITING BOATS, MAKING A PERFECT TARGET FOR THE NAZI PLANES WHICH ATTACKED AGAIN AND AGAIN...



TIRED AND DESPONDENT, THE DEFEATED TROOPS CRAMMED THEMSELVES INTO THE TIGHTLY-PACKED CRAFT, ROCKED NOW AND AGAIN BY BOMB BLASTS.



IT WAS INTO THE INFERNO THAT THE THREE MEN CAME, RUNNING A GAUNTLET OF FIRE AND STEEL AS THEY BURST ON TO THE BEACH FROM THEIR COVER!



RAY GALLAND WAS OBLIVIOUS OF EVERYTHING EXCEPT THE SCREECHING, DIVING STUKAS — UNTIL, SUDDENLY, HE FELT A SEARING PAIN IN HIS LEG ...





STRUGGLING WAIST-DEEP IN WATER, WITH GALLAND ACROSS HIS SHOULDERS, MELLOR FLOUNDERED OUT TO THE MILLING BOATS AND PUSHED THE WOUNDED MAN ABOARD.



THE HARD-BITTEN CORPORAL WADED BACK TO THE BEACH, HIS EYES SEARCHING FOR THE MAN HE HATED, YET WAS READY TO RISK HIS LIFE TO SAVE. ABOARD THE BOAT, THE WHITE-FACED GALLAND, HIS NERVES COMPLETELY SHATTERED, FAINTED INTO A WORLD OF MERCIFUL BLACKNESS...



## Chapter 2. Battle Plan

DURING THE LONG WEEKS OF RECOVERY BACK IN ENGLAND, RAY GALLAND FOUND HIMSELF THE CENTRE OF A BLAZE OF PUBLICITY.



ON HIS DISCHARGE FROM HOSPITAL, ANOTHER SHOCK AWAITED HIM ...





GALLAND LISTENED TO MURRAY WITH A GROWING SENSE OF HORROR.



WITH A LOOK OF DISGUST, GALLAND SHRUGGED OFF MURRAY'S HAND AND STORMED AWAY.




GALLAND RETURNED TO HIS RE-FORMED REGIMENT. DAY AFTER DAY HE TRIED TO GET HIMSELF A POSTING TO ACTIVE SERVICE ...



WHAT'S EATING THAT MAN, GALLAND, SERGEANT? HE'S ALWAYS VOLUNTEERING.

HE'S A SURVIVOR OF GREECE, SIR. PERHAPS HE WANTS TO GET HIS OWN BACK.

AT LAST, GALLAND GOT HIS WISH AND WAS POSTED TO A NEWLY FORMED UNIT IN THE RUGGED SCOTTISH MOUNTAINS. THE TRAINING WAS TOUGH, BUT GALLAND WAS KEEN AND DETERMINED.



YOU MEN HAVE VOLUNTEERED FOR SPECIAL DUTIES -- AND NOW YOUR TRAINING PERIOD IS OVER. I AM SURE THE ENEMY WILL COME TO FEAR THE NAME WE HAVE GIVEN YOU ... **COMMANDOS!**



ALTHOUGH GALLAND OUTWARDLY SHOWED HIMSELF TO BE A TOUGH, KEEN SOLDIER, INWARDLY HE WAS TORTURED BY ONE BURNING QUESTION...



THE UNIT WAS POSTED TO THE SOUTH COAST AND IMMEDIATELY SENT ON ITS FIRST ASSIGNMENT-- TO ATTACK A GERMAN CAMP IN FRANCE.



WEEK AFTER WEEK THE CRACK UNIT MADE SMALL ASSAULTS, GAINING VALUABLE EXPERIENCE EACH TIME.



THEY WERE LIKE HARD-FIGHTING GHOSTS, APPEARING AS IF FROM NOWHERE TO ATTACK AT THE MOST VITAL SPOTS, THEN MYSTERIOUSLY VANISHING AGAIN.





ALL THE TIME, PRIVATE GALLAND LIVED WITH THE GHOST OF ANOTHER MAN WALKING, MARCHING AND FIGHTING BY HIS SIDE... A MAN WHOSE FATE WAS BURIED IN THE CHAOS OF THE WITHDRAWAL FROM GREECE.



THEN CAME THE DAY THEY HAD ALL BEEN WAITING FOR ...



AT LAST OUR CHANCE HAS COME TO STRIKE A MAJOR BLOW FOR ULTIMATE VICTORY! WE HAVE BEEN PICKED FOR SPECIAL OPERATIONS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA!

SOUNDS TO ME LIKE WE'RE LANDING IN ITALY, MATE. SUITS ME FINE!

SOON THE UNIT WAS EMBARKED ON A TROOPSHIP BOUND FOR GIBRALTAR. GALLAND FOUND PLENTY OF TIME TO BROOD ON HIS FUTURE -- AND THINK OF THE PAST.



...FULL SCALE ACTION AGAIN. I WONDER HOW I SHALL FACE IT. WILL MY COURAGE LET ME DOWN AS IT DID IN GREECE?

ONCE IN NORTH AFRICA, GALLAND FOUND HIMSELF THE CENTRE OF CURIOUS EYES. BATTLE-HARDENED DESERT RATS OF THE EIGHTH ARMY ASKED FOR HIS AUTOGRAPH.



IT'S RAY GALLAND, THE FILM STAR! I HEAR HE'S BEEN ON COMMANDO RAIDS IN EUROPE, AFTER HE WAS WOUNDED IN GREECE.

HE'S A GREAT ACTOR AND A **REAL** SOLDIER. I'VE GOT TO GET HIS AUTOGRAPH.



A FEW DAYS LATER, THE COMMANDOS MET THEIR NEW SERGEANT. GALLAND'S FACE STIFFENED WITH SHOCK WHEN HE RECOGNISED HIM AS HIS OLD CORPORAL --- MELLOR!



WHEN THEY DISMISSED, THE TWO MEN FACED EACH OTHER, AND OLD MEMORIES SWAM INTO THEIR MINDS.



MELLOR'S FACE BECAME SOLEMN AS GALLAND POURED OUT THE QUESTIONS WHICH HAD TORMENTED HIM FOR SO LONG.

WHAT HAPPENED? WHY DID YOU GO BACK TO THE BEACH, MELLOR?

I WENT BACK FOR SERGEANT GRAIL. BUT I DIDN'T FIND HIM... THAT'S WHAT'S ALWAYS WORRIED ME.

GALLAND LEARNED FOR THE FIRST TIME OF THE REAL BOND THAT HAD EXISTED BETWEEN SERGEANT GRAIL AND MELLOR.

BUT YOU DID YOUR BEST, MELLOR.

PERHAPS MY BEST WASN'T GOOD ENOUGH. GRAIL ONCE SAVED MY LIFE IN INDIA WHEN WE WERE ATTACKED BY TRIBESMEN... THE DEBT REMAINS UNPAID!

FOR A FEW MOMENTS, NEITHER MAN SAID ANYTHING. THEN GALLAND BROKE THE SILENCE...

IT'S GREAT TO SEE YOU'RE STILL ALIVE, MELLOR. I'VE BEEN PRACTICALLY HAUNTED BY YOUR GHOST THESE LAST MONTHS.

HAUNTED, EH? BUT WHAT ABOUT YOUR OTHER GHOST... THE CELLULOID HERO? DO YOU STILL HAVE TO LIVE UP TO THAT FILM STAR IMAGE?





GALLAND COULD SEE SERGEANT MELLOR WAS BROODING OVER THE PAST. HE SPOKE TO HIM AS THEY WALKED AWAY FROM THE JETTY ...

I'M NOT SO GREEN NOW, SERGEANT -- I LEARNED A LOT IN GREECE. I RECKON I'M MORE OF A SOLDIER ...

I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT, LAD, FOR YOUR OWN SAKE ...



IT WAS A FEW DAYS LATER THAT GALLAND SAW A NEW GROUP OF REINFORCEMENTS MOVE INTO THEIR QUARTERS. THEN THINGS BEGAN TO MOVE ...

I HEAR WE'VE GOT A COUPLE OF NEW OFFICERS. ONE'S A REAL VETERAN, HIS NAME'S LIEUTENANT GRAIL.

GRAIL, DID YOU SAY?

THAT'S RIGHT... HE WAS IN GREECE TOO, GALLAND. MAYBE YOU KNOW HIM?



GALLAND COULD HARDLY BELIEVE HIS EARS--BUT IT WAS SERGEANT MELLOR WHO MET HIM OUTSIDE THE HUT AND CONFIRMED HIS SUSPICION ...

I'VE SEEN HIM,  
GALLAND--IT'S  
**GRAIL!** HE'S  
COMMISSIONED  
NOW!

I HEARD,  
SERGEANT...  
NOW YOUR  
DEBT'S WIPED  
OFF!



SERGEANT MELLOR LOOKED GRIM. THERE WAS A HINT OF WORRY IN HIS EYES AS HE GAZED INTO THE NIGHT.

YOU STILL  
DON'T KNOW  
GRAIL AS WELL AS  
I DO, GALLAND.  
EVERY MAN HAS HIS  
WEAKNESS--AND  
GRAIL IS NO  
EXCEPTION. I'D  
RATHER NOT HAVE  
HIM AS MY OFFICER  
IN THE KIND OF  
THING WE'RE GOING  
INTO...

I DON'T  
UNDERSTAND,  
SERGEANT...





## Chapter 3. *Invasion Force*

THE SERGEANT LEFT, WITHOUT EXPLAINING ANY FURTHER. GALLAND WAS STILL THINKING ABOUT HIS WORDS WHEN THEY MUSTERED THE FOLLOWING NIGHT.



THE STRANGE TRICK OF FATE THAT HAD THROWN THE THREE MEN TOGETHER AGAIN HAD NOT ALTERED THE CHARACTER OF LIEUTENANT GRAIL, AS GALLAND SOON FOUND OUT.



WITH THE ROAR OF NAVAL GUNS RINGING IN THEIR EARS, THE ALLIED FORCES HIT THE BEACHES. THE INVASION OF ITALY HAD BEGUN ...



BACK ON THE BATTLESHIP WHICH WAS ACTING AS HEADQUARTERS FOR THE ATTACK, THE TRUE NATURE OF THE FORCE WHICH HAD ALREADY LANDED WAS REVEALED ...

...THIS IS OUR FEINT ATTACK WHICH HAS JUST GONE IN, GENTLEMEN. WE ARE HOPING IT WILL DRAW GERMAN PRESSURE OFF OUR MAJOR LANDING ...






BUT FOR THE MEN ASHORE THAT ENEMY RESISTANCE WAS PROVING A TOUGH NUT TO CRACK!



THE FIRST GERMAN POSITION WAS OVERWHELMED -- BUT NOT BEFORE THE ENEMY HAD INFLICTED GRAVE LOSSES ON THE ATTACKERS. FARTHER INLAND, THE COMMANDOS GOT A SHOCK!




AN AIR STRIKE FROM THE CARRIER FORCE HIT THE GERMAN GUNS, AND FOR THE SLOGGING SOLDIERS THE WAY WAS OPENED AGAIN. BUT STUBBORN RESISTANCE STILL REMAINED...



...THERE'S STILL ONE GUN FIRING, GRAIL -- IT'S SITED UNDER A SHELF OF ROCK WHERE THE PLANES CAN'T REACH IT!

I'LL TAKE A RAIDING PARTY IN, SJR! SERGEANT MELLOR, BRING FOUR MEN WITH DEMOLITION CHARGES!

THE REMAINING 88 WAS LAYING DOWN A WITHERING FIRE AS SERGEANT MELLOR BROUGHT HIS MEN FORWARD. NO WORD OF THEIR PRIVATE DEBT PASSED BETWEEN GRAIL AND MELLOR AT THAT CRUCIAL MOMENT...



TWO OF THESE MEN WILL LAY SMOKE WHILE THREE OF US TRY TO GET NEAR ENOUGH TO BLAST THE PILL BOX -- ARE YOU WITH ME, SERGEANT?

IT SOUNDS FAIR ENOUGH, LIEUTENANT.



THREE OF THE MEN CREEPT FORWARD... SUDDENLY A MURDEROUS BLAST OF MACHINE-GUN FIRE OPENED UP!

THEY'VE SPOTTED US... SOMEBODY'S GOT TO KNOCK OUT THAT GUN!

LEAVE IT TO ME...



BEFORE GRAIL COULD SPEAK AGAIN, GALLAND WAS GONE, VANISHING IN THE SMOKE CLOUD.



GALLAND AGAIN! HE'LL MUFF IT... AND IF HE DOES, WE'LL ALL BE KILLED!

EVERY MAN'S GOT TWO CHANCES IN THIS WAR, LIEUTENANT... HE'S EITHER QUICK, OR HE'S DEAD.

GRAIL SUDDENLY TURNED FIERCELY ON THE VETERAN SERGEANT. FOR THE FIRST TIME HE DISPLAYED THE VENOM OF HIS SPITE.



I DON'T NEED YOUR PHONEY PHILOSOPHY, MELLOR! I'VE GOT NO CONFIDENCE IN GALLAND... I'D SOONER HAVE REAL SOLDIERS WITH ME AT A TIME LIKE THIS!

GALLAND ONLY MADE ONE MISTAKE, GRAIL... BACK AT NAUPLIA... IT'S TIME YOU FORGOT IT!

BEFORE GRAIL COULD REPLY, THERE WAS A SUDDEN EXPLOSION AHEAD ...

THAT'S ONE OF  
THE DEMOLITION  
CHARGES!

GALLAND!

THE MACHINE-GUN HAD STOPPED, AND, IN PLACE OF THE ROARING EIGHTY-EIGHT THERE WAS ONLY A SMOKING CRATER IN THE GROUND AS THE LIEUTENANT AND MELLOR MOVED FORWARD AGAIN ...

GALLAND WIPED OUT  
THE MACHINE-GUN AND  
THEN BLASTED THE  
EIGHTY-EIGHT... THAT  
TOOK COURAGE!

ALL RIGHT,  
SERGEANT... GET  
YOUR MEN FORWARD!  
WE'VE NOT HIT THE  
MAIN DEFENCE  
LINE YET!



LIEUTENANT GRAIL TRIED TO PLAY DOWN GALLAND'S BRAVERY. A MOMENT LATER, HIS OWN COURAGE WAS PUT TO THE TEST...



A SUDDEN, SAVAGE COUNTER-ATTACK SENT THE COMMANDOS REELING BACK. STRICKEN BY THE LOSS OF THEIR COMMANDER, THEY STUMBLERED AND WAVERED. LIEUTENANT GRAIL LOST HIS HEAD FOR A MOMENT!



IN A RAGGED BUNCH, THE BRITISH FELL BACK TO THE RUINED OUTER DEFENCE LINE. IT WAS SERGEANT MELLOR WHO FINALLY HELD THE POSITION, BRINGING A TORRENT OF MACHINE-GUN FIRE TO BEAR ON THE ATTACKERS.



RIGHT, LADS--  
POUR IT INTO 'EM!  
WE'LL HOLD THEM  
HERE!

THEY'RE  
WAVERING,  
SARGE!

THE ENEMY ATTACK BROKE UP. AN UNEASY SILENCE SETTLED OVER THE BATTLEGROUND. BUT THE TWO VETERAN SOLDIERS KNEW THAT THE LULL WOULD NOT LAST LONG...



THEY'LL BE BACK--  
AND WE'RE STUCK  
HERE TILL  
REINFORCEMENTS  
ARRIVE... THIS BEACH  
WAS TOO HEAVILY  
DEFENDED... IT WAS  
ALL A MISTAKE.

HE'S STARTING  
TO MAKE EXCUSES...  
THAT'S A BAD SIGN!

GRAIL MUST HAVE GUESSED THE THOUGHTS THAT WERE PASSING THROUGH THE SERGEANT'S MIND...



I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE  
THINKING, MELLOR... BUT I'M  
NOT GOING TO RADIO FOR  
HELP! THIS STRIKE HAS  
SERVED ITS PURPOSE. WE'VE  
PINNED DOWN THE ENEMY  
AND THE MAJOR  
LANDING IS TO  
TAKE PLACE  
UP THE COAST...

IT'S UP TO  
YOU, LIEUTENANT.  
YOU'RE IN  
COMMAND.



GRAIL WAS INTERRUPTED. A PRISONER WEARING ITALIAN UNIFORM WAS BROUGHT IN ...

I FOUND THIS MAN ROAMING ROUND OUR POSITION, SIR ...

THE ITALIANS SURRENDERED TO US BEFORE THE ATTACK TOOK PLACE. BRING HIM FORWARD, SENTRY.



THE PRISONER SAID HE WAS A CORPORAL IN THE ITALIAN ARMY. SERGEANT MELLOR WAS SUSPICIOUS, BUT GRAIL ACCEPTED THE MAN'S STORY ...

THERE WAS MUCH FIGHTING, CAPITANO. THE GERMANS WERE HOLDING US PRISONER... AND I ESCAPE! I AM HAPPY TO BE WITH GLORIOUS ALLIES WHO ARE LIBERATING ITALIA ...

HE SOUNDS TOO SMOOTH TO ME, LIEUTENANT.



I'LL HANDLE THIS, SERGEANT! HE MAY HAVE VITAL INFORMATION!

THE ITALIAN SAID HE HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF ENEMY MOVEMENTS. BUT GALLAND, WHO HAD BEEN WATCHING, SEEMED TO REMEMBER HIS FACE ...



THE NAGGING SENSE THAT HE RECOGNISED THE PRISONER WORRIED GALLAND. HE SPOKE TO GRAIL ABOUT IT, BUT THE LIEUTENANT WAS IN NO MOOD TO LISTEN ...





GALLAND WAS JUST ABOUT TO REPLY WHEN A SPURT OF FLAME LEAPT FROM THE GROUND A HUNDRED YARDS AWAY.



STUKAS!  
TAKE COVER,  
MEN!

THE SCREAMING FURY OF THE DIVE BOMBERS SHATTERED THE STILLNESS OF THE NIGHT. A STICK OF BOMBS EXPLODED ALONG THE FRONT OF THE COMMANDOS' POSITION -- AND GALLAND FELL BACK, SHOCKED!



WATCH FOR  
THE INFANTRY --  
THEY'LL FLING  
IN AN ATTACK  
UNDER THIS  
AIR COVER!

PRIVATE GALLAND STAGGERED UPRIGHT. AS THE SMOKE CLEARED, HE SAW LIEUTENANT GRAIL, MUSTERING HIS MEN AGAIN TO STEM AN ATTACK FROM THE ENEMY LINES ...



THEN, HE SAW SOMETHING ELSE ...





...URGENCY LENT SPEED TO GALLAND. EVEN AS THE FIRST WAVE OF THE ENEMY ATTACK CAME IN, HE WAS RUNNING AFTER THE FUGITIVE ...

IT'S GALLAND! HE'S RUNNING FOR IT -- THE MISERABLE COWARD!

I'VE GOT TO STOP THE SPY BEFORE HE CAN REACH THE GERMANS -- HE HEARD GRAIL MENTION THE MAJOR LANDING UP THE COAST...

THE CHASE LED GALLAND THROUGH THE RUBBLE OF THE WAR-SHATTERED VILLAGE. THE SPY SUDDENLY VANISHED AMONG THE SCATTERED ROCKS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE NEXT HILL!

HE'S DISAPPEARED! HECK -- THOSE TWO GERMANS HAVE SPOTTED ME!

SOON GALLAND THREW OFF THE TWO GERMAN RIFLEMEN, BREAKING OUT INTO THE UPPER REACH OF THE HILLS, HE WAITED AND, PRESENTLY, A DARK FIGURE APPEARED AGAIN...

IT'S THE ITALIAN! THIS TIME I'LL MAKE SURE OF HIM!

BEFORE HIS QUARRY COULD YELL OUT, GALLAND POUNCED. THEY ROLLED IN A SAVAGE HAND-TO-HAND STRUGGLE...



THE STRUGGLE WAS SHORT AND BITTER,  
BUT GALLAND WAS THE STRONGER MAN...





HANS LUBECK HAD DELIVERED HIS FINAL DESPATCH BUT WHEN GALLAND EXAMINED THE GERMAN'S DOCUMENTS, HE RECEIVED A SHOCK...

THIS IS A COPY OF A SIGNAL CALLING UP A PANZER COLUMN TO OPPOSE THE LANDING. LUBECK MUST'VE ALREADY WARNED THE JERRIES THAT THE MAJOR ATTACK WILL TAKE PLACE UP THE COAST!

UNLESS THEY WERE STOPPED, THE PANZERS WOULD CRUSH THE MAIN BRITISH LANDING FORCE BEFORE IT COULD GET A FOOTHOLD ON THE BEACH!

THOSE PANZERS HAVE GOT TO BE STOPPED! THEY'LL CUT OUR INFANTRY TO RIBBONS AS SOON AS THEY HIT THE BEACH!



SERGEANT MELLOR SPOTTED THE LONE FIGURE, DODGING BETWEEN THE BOULDERS -- JUST AS THE GERMANS FELL BACK TO REGROUP THEIR FORCES FOR ANOTHER ATTACK...



WITHIN A FEW MINUTES, SERGEANT MELLOR WAS DELIVERING TO LIEUTENANT GRAIL THE VITAL INFORMATION GALLAND HAD BROUGHT BACK...





GALLAND QUICKLY POURED OUT HIS STORY--AND WAS MET WITH A TORRENT OF REPRIMANDS FROM THE WILD-EYED GRAIL.

THIS PANZER COLUMN IS NO CONCERN OF OURS, GALLAND! YOU HAD NO RIGHT TO LEAVE YOUR OWN LINES, TO RUN IN THE FACE OF THE ENEMY!

BUT GALLAND HAD RECOGNISED OUR PRISONER, LIEUTENANT--HE ACTED WITH CONSIDERABLE COURAGE GOING AFTER HIM LIKE THAT! AND IF WE DON'T STOP THOSE PANZERS THE ENTIRE LANDING WILL BE WIPE OUT!

THE LIEUTENANT'S OUTBURST PROVED WHAT MELLOR HAD ALWAYS SUSPECTED. GRAIL DID NOT WANT TO BELIEVE GALLAND. HE WAS AFRAID TO FACE REALITY AND MAKE A SPONTANEOUS DECISION...

OUR TASK IS HERE, HOLDING THIS POSITION, PINNING THE ENEMY INFANTRY DOWN. THOSE WERE MY ORDERS, MELLOR! MY ORDERS!

NOW I KNOW THE TRUTH ABOUT GRAIL. HE'S AT LAST TRAPPED INTO HAVING TO MAKE THE DECISIONS INSTEAD OF HAVING THEM MADE FOR HIM. THAT'S HIS WEAKNESS--HE'S AFRAID OF MAKING A DECISION!

## Fear Is The Enemy

EVERY MAN SHOWS HIS WEAKNESS IN THE HEAT OF BATTLE. SOME, LIKE PRIVATE GALLAND, HAVE A FEAR OF SHOWING THEIR WEAKNESS AND STRIVE ALWAYS TO RISE ABOVE IT...



OTHERS, LIKE LIEUTENANT GRAIL, WHO HOLD THE LIVES OF OTHER MEN IN THEIR HANDS, SEEK ONLY ONE THING -- TO **ESCAPE** FROM THEIR WEAKNESS.

I CAN'T ORDER MY MEN TO ATTACK THOSE PANZERS -- EVEN IF THEY'RE THERE. I CAN'T TAKE THE RESPONSIBILITY... I MUST HAVE FURTHER ORDERS.

THOSE TANKS WILL ALREADY BE MUSTERING. I'VE GOT TO MAKE GRAIL'S MIND UP FOR HIM!





NEXT MOMENT, THE PROBLEM WAS SOLVED -- BY THE GERMANS!



WE'RE FINISHED,  
MELLOR! WE CAN'T  
HOLD THEM!  
WE'VE GOT TO  
PULL OUT!

SO HE'S  
FINALLY  
CRACKED! THE  
WEIGHT OF THE  
RESPONSIBILITY  
WAS TOO MUCH  
FOR HIM... HE'S  
FINALLY MADE  
A DECISION -- A  
DECISION TO  
RUN!



GRAIL SANK TO THE GROUND AND THE SERGEANT SAW THE OPPORTUNITY TO REPAY HIS DEBT IN FULL ...



ONCE YOU SAVED MY LIFE, GRAIL. NOW I'M GOING TO PAY YOU BACK--BY SAVING YOURS, AND YOUR CAREER...

WHAT...WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO?

MELLOR FORCED THE LIEUTENANT TO LOOK TOWARDS THE ENEMY AGAIN AND TOWARDS ANOTHER MAN, WHO HAD ONCE SHOWN HIS WEAKNESS UNDER STRESS ...



DO, YOU ASK? TAKE A LOOK, GRAIL-- THERE'S A MAN YOU ONCE CALLED A CELLULOID HERO ... BUT HE'S BECOME A **REAL** SOLDIER. AS FOR YOU, YOU'RE JUST AN ORDINARY MAN WEARING A UNIFORM ...

I--- I'M AFRAID, MELLOR! I ADMIT IT, CURSE YOU!



A BLINDING CONCUSSION STRUCK THE POSITION AT THAT MOMENT AS A BOMB EXPLODED NEARBY. THE DUST SETTLED AND MELLOR LED THE MEN FORWARD, TUGGING THE DEMORALISED LIEUTENANT AFTER HIM...



THE MEN RESPONDED COURAGEOUSLY AND THE ENEMY FALTERED IN THE FACE OF THAT HURRICANE OF FIRE!



BUT THE BATTLE WAS ALREADY JOINED AND, OUT AT SEA, A CONVOY WAS PLOUGHING INTO THE SHORELINE. THE MAJOR LANDING WAS UNDER WAY!



LOOKS AS IF THE COMMANDOS ARE HAVING A ROUGH PASSAGE, SIR... PERHAPS THEY'VE HIT HEAVY OPPOSITION.

THEN THE SOONER WE GET THESE TROOPS ASHORE THE BETTER, LIEUTENANT... FULL SPEED AHEAD!

DRIVEN FORWARD BY A DETERMINED SERGEANT WHO HAD TAKEN OVER COMMAND FROM THEIR LIEUTENANT, THE COMMANDOS LAID DOWN A WITHERING HAIL OF LEAD IN A DESPERATE ATTEMPT TO DESTROY THE LUMBERING PANZERS...



KEEP UP THAT FIRE!

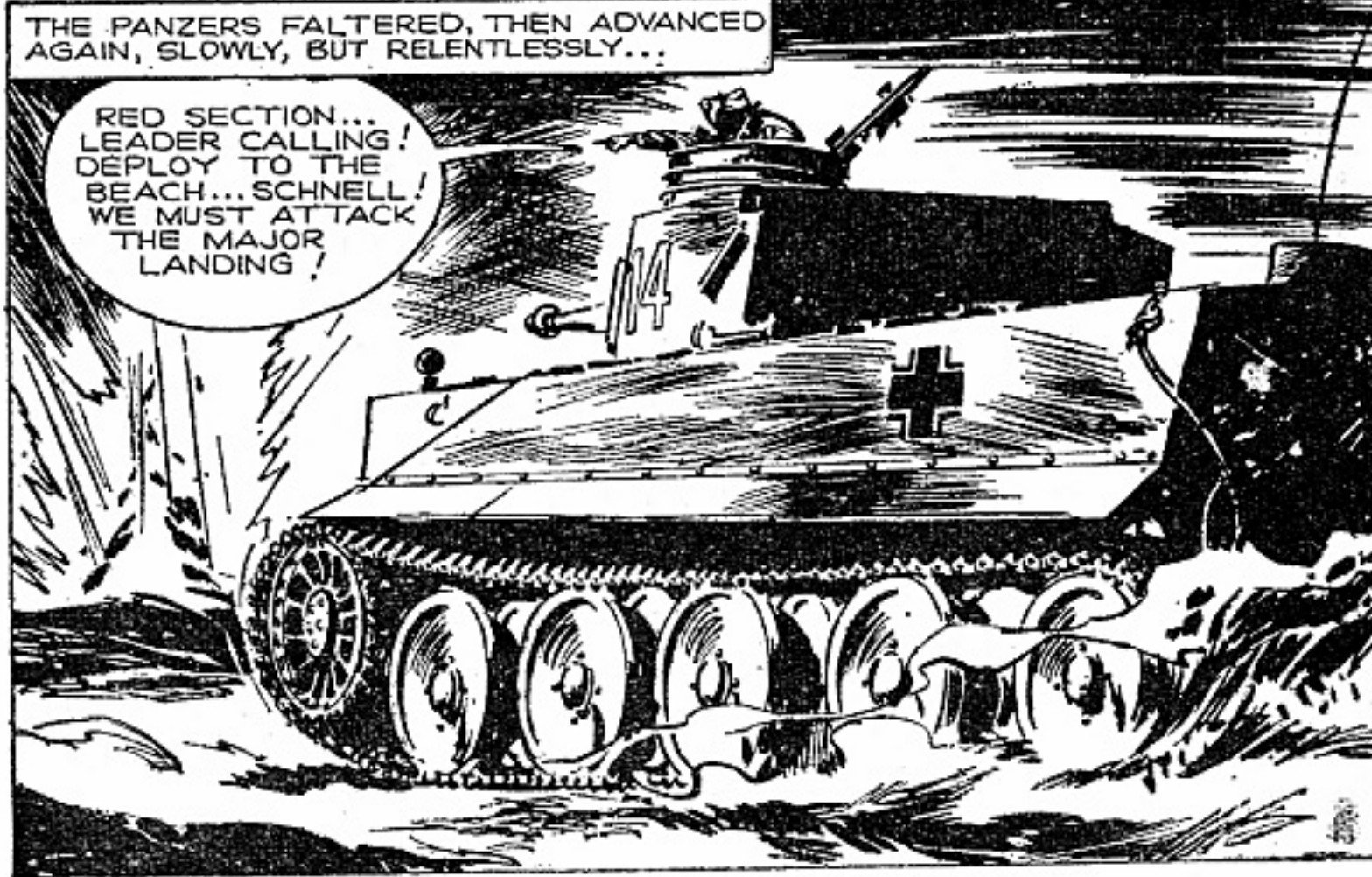


GALLAND WAS RELIVING HIS SCREEN PARTS... BUT NOW IT WAS NOT AN ACT SURVIVAL WAS THE REWARD OF SUCCESS. DEATH THE COST OF FAILURE.



THE PANZERS FALTERED, THEN ADVANCED AGAIN, SLOWLY, BUT RELENTLESSLY...

RED SECTION...  
LEADER CALLING!  
DEPLOY TO THE  
BEACH... SCHNELL!  
WE MUST ATTACK  
THE MAJOR  
LANDING!



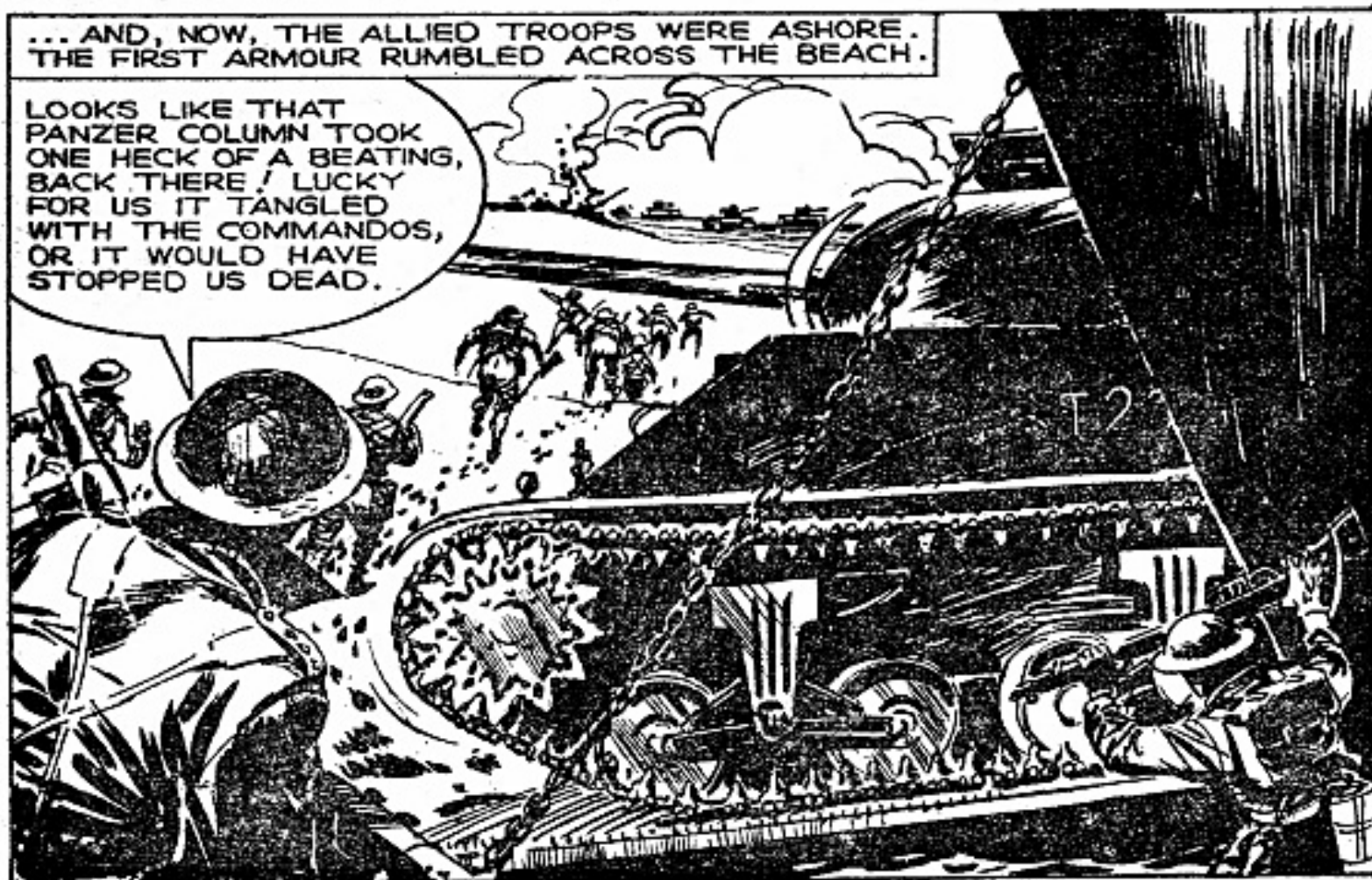
## Fear Is The Enemy

BUT THE COMMANDOS' GALLANT STAND HAD UPSET THE TIMING OF THE CAREFULLY PLANNED NAZI STRIKE. THE GERMAN INFANTRY WAVERED IN THE FACE OF THE UNEXPECTED RESISTANCE ...



... AND, NOW, THE ALLIED TROOPS WERE ASHORE. THE FIRST ARMOUR RUMBLED ACROSS THE BEACH.

LOOKS LIKE THAT PANZER COLUMN TOOK ONE HECK OF A BEATING, BACK THERE! LUCKY FOR US IT TANGLED WITH THE COMMANDOS, OR IT WOULD HAVE STOPPED US DEAD.





NOW THE BATTLE WAS IN THE BALANCE. BOTH SIDES FOUGHT RESOLUTELY FOR MASTERY. THEN GALLAND'S DREAD-FILLED VOICE ROSE IN A HOARSE SHOUT...



IN SECONDS, THE WINGED ATTACKERS HAD SPREAD DEATH AND DESTRUCTION, TIPPING THE SCALES IN FAVOUR OF THE DEFENDERS. THE COMMANDOS LOOKED ON IN HELPLESS FURY ...



THE GERMANS WERE QUICK TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THEIR CHANGE OF FORTUNE. THE NEXT STRIKE FROM THE STUKAS HIT THE LANDING CRAFT...



GALLAND SWUNG ROUND ON THE MAN WHO HAD SPOKEN -- IT WAS LIEUTENANT GRAIL!





TWO MEN CAME TOGETHER ON THAT SHELL-TORN BEACH. CAME TO TERMS WITH EACH OTHER... AND WITH THE ENEMY.



THE STUKAS ROARED IN FOR ANOTHER ATTACK--STRAIGHT INTO THE TEETH OF EXPLODING SHELLS!



GALLAND AND GRAIL ROCKED BEFORE THE SHOCK WAVES OF THE EXPLODING BOMBS, BUT THEY WERE UNHURT AND THE OERLIKON WAS LEFT INTACT...

A NEAR MISS...NEXT TIME THEY'LL BE MORE ACCURATE.

KEEP FIRING!  
IF WE HAVE TO GO—LET'S TAKE SOME OF THE BLIGHTERS WITH US!

...AND SO THEY STOOD TOGETHER, AS THE JAWS OF DEATH TIGHTENED... THE CELLULOID HERO AND THE SOLDIER...





ONE AFTER ANOTHER THE STUKAS WERE CLAWED FROM THE SKY BY THE OERLIKON'S FIRE. BUT THE GUN CREW PAID THE SUPREME PRICE FOR THEIR SELFLESS COURAGE ...



...AND THE FIRST TROOPS WHO FINALLY STORMED ASHORE TO HOLD THE BEACHHEAD FOUND A WEARY SERGEANT AND A MERE HANDFUL OF SURVIVORS STANDING, GAZING AT THE SMOULDERING HULK OF A LANDING CRAFT ...



...AND SOMEWHERE, DOWN THE ECHOING VAULTS OF TIME, THE BRAVE WORDS WERE TAKEN UP ... AND REPEATED. PERHAPS BY THE TWO MEN WHO HAD MADE VICTORY POSSIBLE ... THE CELLULOID HERO ... AND THE SOLDIER WHO HAD FOUGHT AND WON.



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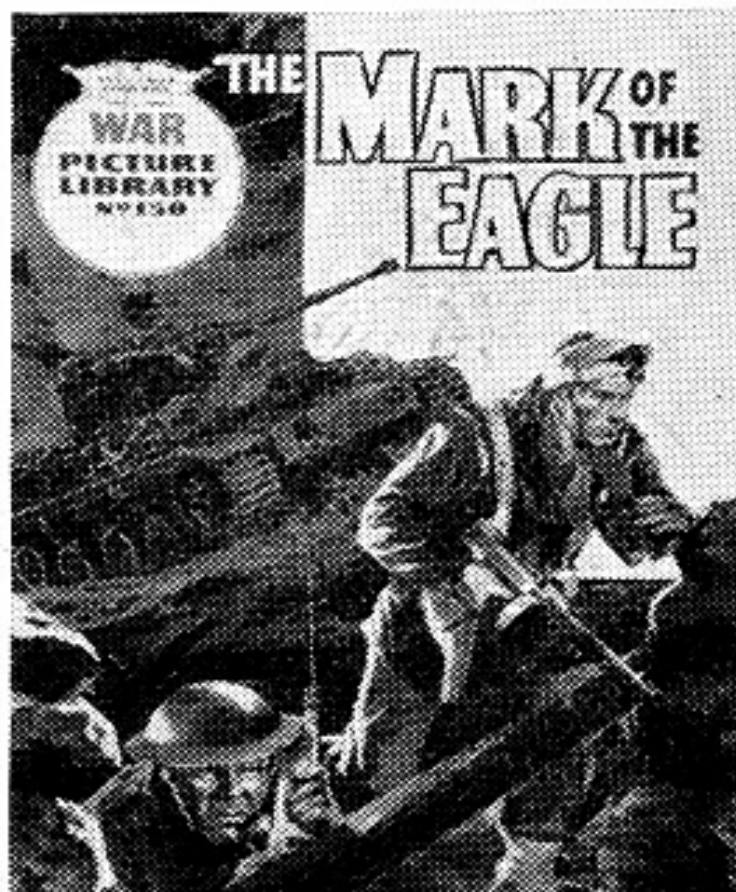
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